Incentives to Farmers of Punjab

*156. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of incentives/subsidies being provided by the Central Government to the farmers in Punjab to increase their farm produce?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): The Central Government provides incentives/subsidies through a number of Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the farmers of Punjab with a view to increase their farm produce. These include, subsidies on distribution of certified seeds, Plant Protection equipment, and Plant Protection chemicals, weedicides, sprinkler sets, installation of drip irrigation system, Micro-nutrients, distribution of vegetable minikits, farmers training programme and subsidies for reclamation of alkali soil in Punjab.

The various incentives and subsidies are provided through a number of schemes such Integrated programme of Rice Development (IPRD), Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP), Special Foodgrains Production Programme—wheat, National Pulses Development Programme, Oilseeds Production Programme, Drip Irrigation Scheme, Distribution of vegetable Minikits, Integrated Development of Tropical and Arid Zone Fruits, Reclamation of Alkali soil etc.

National Master Plan

*157. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up a National Master Plan in consultation with the State Government of West Bengal for an extensive Irrigation cum Drainage—Cum—Navigation-cum-Pisciculture Project for whole of South Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Preparation of Master Plan for development of a River Basin falls within the purview of the State. The Central Water Commission provides necessary technical assistance to the States. A team comprising Central and State Government officers has been constituted to survey and assess the feasibility of formulating a Master Plan for Irrigation, Drainage, Navigation and Pisciculture for the delta region of South Bengal.

Central Tobacco Research Istitute and Tobacco Development Council

*158. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the role of Central Tobacco Research Institute as well as Tobacco Development Council and who manages them;

(b) whether there are any managing committees and if so, how often they meet and when did they meet last; and

(c) what is the staff pattern of these institutes and what is the plan and non-plan expenditure incurred on these institutes during the last three years.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Sir, the role of Central Tobacco Research Institute Rajahmudry is to conduct basic and applied researches on all aspects of tobacco cultivation (Genetics and Plant breeding Agronomy, Chemistry, Plant Protection, Seed Production, Transfer of Technology) in the country. The Institute publishes, and disseminates, research findings and recommendations of latest technology to tobacco growers. It is managed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

The role of Tobacco Development Council is to consider various development programmes in the Central